

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 01960 251003Z

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 /018 W

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R 250924Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4550

UNCLAS SANA 1960

FOR JOE WHEELER, ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, AA/NE,
USAID/W AND GORDON PARSONS, OFFICE OF OVEREAS
SCHOOLS FROM AMBASSADOR SCOTES

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SEDU, YE

SUBJECT: GRANT FOR SANA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

1. TODAY, 23 APRIL, IS MY LAST DAY IN SANA, BUT I WANT
TO TAKE TIME TO SET OUT IN SOME DETAIL THE PARLOUS FINAN-
CIAL SITUATION IN WHICH THE SANA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
FINDS ITSELF. I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OFFER TO
HELP IN THIS MATTER WHICH COULD AFFECT OUR COMMUNITY
VERY ADVERSELY.

2. DUE TO INCREASED COSTS OF CONSTRUCTION AND A SHORT-
FALL IN RECEIPTS, THE SCHOOL FINDS ITSELF SHORT ABOUT
\$300,000. WORK ON THE NEW SCHOOL BUILDINGS IS OF
COURSE IN AN ADVANCED STATE AND IT WOULD BE A DISASTER
TO HALT THE CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM. WITH THE ROOF ONLY
HALF COMPLETED, THE COMING RAINS WOULD CAUSE CONSIDER-
ABLE DAMAGE TO EXPOSED PLYWOOD AND WOODEN TRUSSES
AND TO THE INTERIOR OF THE BUILDING. MOREOVER, THE
SCHOOL MUST VACATE ITS EXISTING PREMISES BY 30 JUNE IN
THE WAKE OF A RENT TRIBUANL ORDER TO PAY THE LANDLORDS
1,000 RIYALS A DAY PENALTY FOR EACH DAY AFTER 30 JUNE.
WITH ALMOST HALF A MILLION DOLLARS ALREADY SUNK INTO
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THE NEW BUILDINGS, I SEE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO PRESS
AHEAD WITH ITS COMPLETION. THE NEW STRUCTURES ARE
HARDLY EXTRAVAGANT BUT THEY WILL HOUSE THE SCHOOL AND
SERVE ITS EDUCATIONAL NEEDS ADMIRABLY. THE DESIGN IS
FIRST-RATE.

3. I HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

TO EXPLORE EVERY POSSIBLE SOURCE OF FUNDS BOTH FROM COMPANIES AND FOUNDATIONS AS WELL AS OTHER GOVERNMENTS. THIS EFFORT HAS YIELDED SOME FEW SMALL SUCCESSES AND HOPES FOR LARGER SUMS IN THE COMING YEAR. THE SCHOOL HAS INCREASED ITS TUITION FOR THE COMING YEAR BUT THIS, OF COURSE, PROVIDES NO BENEFIT UNTIL SEPTEMBER. TO SATISFY THE NEEDS FOR IMMEDIATE CASH FLOW, THE SCHOOL HAS TURNED TO VARIOUS BANKS. CITIBANK HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO INCREASE ITS EXPOSURE FROM ABOUT \$200,000 TO ABOUT \$300,000. THIS IS SEVEN YEAR MONEY AND DEBT SERVICES WILL BE CONSIDERABLE. THAT STILL LEAVES A PRESSING NEED FOR ABOUT \$200,000 TO KEEP BUILDING OPERATIONS GOING.

4. BOB HUESMANN AND I HAVE GONE OVER THE BUILDING PROGRAM IN GREAT DETAIL. WE THINK THAT AT THIS STAGE IT HAS BEEN PARED TO THE BONE AND THAT EVERY PROJECTED COST IS NOW BOTH REALISTIC AND NECESSARY. WHAT THE SCHOOL NEEDS IS \$200,000 IN GRANT MONEY FROM THE US GOVERNMENT IN THE NEXT MONTH. IT COULD BE FOR EITHER OPERATING OR CONSTRUCTION COSTS. AS PRIOR STEP, COULD DEPARTMENT ALLOW SCHOOL SPEND ALREADY GRANTED \$25,000 IN THIS FISCAL YEAR?

5. IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM THE EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE A DETAILED BREAKOUT OF COSTS AND ITS PROPOSED BUDGET. MY HOPE IN THIS MESSAGE IS TO UNDERSCORE THE IM-
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IMPORTANCE OF THE SCHOOL TO AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND THE DIRE NEED FOR FUNDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WHEN I RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN THE SECOND WEEK OF MAY, I WILL TRY TO SEE YOU AT ONCE ABOUT THIS MATTER.

6. WAR REGARDS.

7. THIS MESSAGE TRANSMITTED AFTER AMBASSADOR SCOTES DEPARTURE.
RANSOM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATION GRANTS, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANA01960
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780176-0297
Format: TEL
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780420/aaaaapzp.tel
Line Count: 104
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 420149a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OPR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2858303
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GRANT FOR SANA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
TAGS: SEDU, YE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/420149a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014